

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKE01000

Lease/Serial/Case File No. FF097039

Applicant: Joel Maxfield
Mathews Inc.
13785 Inland Avenue
Sparta Wisconsin 54656

Proposed Action Title/Type: Film Permit

Date of Proposed Action: August 22- September 1, 2015 (approximate dates, dependent on weather)

General Location of Proposed Action: Umiat Area

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Joel L. Maxfield with Mathews Inc., is requesting a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) film permit to film wildlife and the hunting of grizzly bear and caribou for the use of television and marketing materials. The filming footage may be used for personal, outdoor television or marketing materials. The applicant's story board is to capture a documentary style Alaskan adventure of a hunter and guide spending time in the wilderness in pursuit of bear and caribou. The proposed activity would take place in the Umiat area on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska managed by the BLM Arctic Field Office.

Mr. Maxfield has hired Alaska Arctic Adventures (Stryker Overly) as his outfitter and guide for access into remote areas. Alaska Arctic Adventures has a current BLM Special Recreation Permit (FF095664) which allows the company to guide within State Game Management Units 26-10, 26-11 and 26-12.

Mr. Maxfield and a guide would be the only people involved with the hunting and filming. The expected period of the activity is August 22 – September 1, 2015. To allow for unforeseen circumstances, the permit would be authorized through September 30, 2015. Mr. Maxfield would fly to Umiat via a fixed wing charter. Alaska Arctic Adventures would fly Mr. Maxfield and a guide with a fixed wing aircraft to a location near Umiat on the Colville River. From there they would use a motorized raft for transportation. The locations of the camp, the fuel use, waste disposal and emergency procedures are all being taken care of by Mr. Overly and fall under the requirements of his BLM SRP. Drinking water would be pumped and filtered from local sources.

Mr. Maxfield would carry 4 small packable cameras to conduct the filming. The only props would be hunting gear carried by crewmembers.

Table 1 Legal Description: All in Umiat Meridian

Township	Range	Section
2 North	2 West	1-36
2 North	1 West	1-36
2 North	1 East	1-36
2 North	2 East	1-36
1 North	3 West	1-36
1 North	2 West	1-36
1 North	1 West	1-36
1 North	1 East	1-33 NPR-A Only Excluding private land
1 North	2 East	1-12, 14-23 NPR-A Only
1 South	3 West	1-36
1 South	2 West	1-24, 27-33 NPR-A Only
1 South	1 West	1-10, 15-19 NPR-A Only Excluding State Land at Umiat
1 South	1 East	5-6 NPR-A Only Excluding Private Land

Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

B. Compliance with NEPA:

The IAP/EIS Record of Decision for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: "FF097039 Mathews Inc. Film Permit Stipulations Summer 2015 Permit Stipulations."

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9. Specifically, the proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 3 Departmental Categorical Exclusions.

“Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

C. Approval and Contact Information

I considered the proposed action and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts.

/s/
Stacie McIntosh
Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

8/13/2015
Date

Contact Person:

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